

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 12204 171123Z

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ACTION ORM-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4801

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN IRAN

REF: STATE 294605

1. EMBASSY GRATIFIED THAT 5 DECEMBER MEETING WITH IRANIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR RESULTED IN MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF PROCUDURES GOVERNING FUTURE RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN IRAN. PARTICULARLY WELCOME AGREEMENT PARA FOUR REFTEL WHICH WE INTERPRET AS MEANING IRANIANS WILL JUDGE FOR THEMSELVES APPLICANT'S ABILITY TO PERFORM JOB FOR WHICH HE IS RECRUITED.

2. STATUS OF FIRST REFUGEE GROUP: FIVE PERSONS INCLUDING TRANH THIEN THANH; HIS WIFE; HIS SON; NGUYEN TAN LOC AND BUI KIM DANH ARE, AS OF DECEMBER 15, PREPARING TO DEPART IRAN. THANH, WHOSE FAMILY WAS PERSIONALLY SPONSORED BY LABOR DEPUTY MINISTER NASSERI, AND THE OTHERS PLAN TO GO ON TO FRANCE AND TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WAS AT HIS AGE UNTRAINABLE TO DRIVE TRACTOR-TRAILER RIG AND ALTHOUGH COMPANY OFFERED HIM OTHER POSSIBLE JOBS OUTSIDE TEHRAN THIS WOULD HAVE ENTAILED SEPARATION FROM WIFE AND CHILD FOR LONG PERIODS. ADDITIONALLY, COST OF HOUSING WOULD HAVE BEEN PROHIBITIVE FOR MAN MAKING \$475 PER MONTH. THANH HOPED OTHER REFUGEES WOULD WORK OUT TO COMPANY SATISFACTION IN VARIETY OF JOBS.

3. COMPANY HEAD PAKSIMA TOLD EMBOFF HE TRYING TO TRAIN THREE OF REFUGEES AS DRIVERS AND WOULD TRY AND ACCOMODATE REST. HE LIKES SPIRIT OF GROUP WHICH IS POOLINGSALARIES

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 12204 171123Z

TO HELP FAMILY WITH FIVE CHILDREN PAY RENT. PAKSIMA SAID

\$475 MONTHLY SALARY WAS AGREED FOR SKILLED DRIVERS, BUT IF THEY FILLED OTHER JOBS HE WAS IN QUANDRY AS TO PROPER LEVEL OF COMPENSATION. PAKSIMA INCLINED TO PAY EQUIVALENT IRANIAN SALRY PLUS SOME OVERAGE BUT IN SOME CASES THIS TOTAL SUM MIGHT BE LOWER THAN \$475 REFUGEES HAD BEEN LED TO EXPECT AS DRIVERS. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT PAKSIMA DOING UTMOST TO FIT REFUGEES INTO HIS ORGANIZATION AND STILL INTERESTED IN HIRING MORE TRULY SKILLED AT THEIR JOBS. HE MENTIONED NEED FOR EQUIPMENT OPERATORS AT PORT AND EMBOFF SUGGESTED HE MAKE THIS NEED KNOWN TO MINISTRY OF LABOR.

4. THANH AND OTHER DEPARTEES HAVE COLLECTED PAY DUE TO DATE, HAVE SOLD SOME POSSESSIONS, AND ARE AWAITING REMITTANCES FROM RELATIVES IN FRANCE TO MEET COST OF ONWARD AIR FARE. THEY EXPRESSED ONLY GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED THEM ALONG THIS FAR.
HELMS

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